

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /114 W

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R 232329Z SEP 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2227

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS USUN 4440

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CD

SUBJECT: CHADIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' PRESS CONFERENCE
ON CLAUSTRE ABDUCTION

1. CHADIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WADAL ABDELKADER, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT UN SEPTEMBER 23, TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND ON THE KIDNAPPING OF MADAME CLAUSTRE AND TO COMMENT ON THE "INTOLERABLE INTERFERENCE" BY FRANCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CHAD THROUGH ITS UNILATERAL EFFORTS TO SECURE RELEASE OF MADAME CLAUSTRE. THE MINISTER READ A STATEMENT IN FRENCH TO THE CORRESPONDENTS, OUTLINING EVENTS LEADING TO THE REBELLION IN CHAD, THE ABDUCTION OF MADAME CLAUSTRE, AND THE EVENTUAL COUP D'ETAT. HE SAID ENERGETIC CHADIAN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SECURE CLAUSTRE'S RELEASE WERE ABOUT TO COME TO FRUITION WHEN THE FRENCH INTERVENED, MADE DIRECT CLANDESTINE CONTACT WITH CLAUSTRE'S ABDUCTORS AND AGREED TO PAY A RANSOM. ON SEPTEMBER 19, A FRENCH MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANE LANDED AT YEBBI-BOU WITH A CARGO OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, IN "VIOLATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY" OF CHAD.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM JOURNALISTS FOLLOWING HIS STATEMENT, MINISTER WADAL ABDELKADER SAID HIS LATEST
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INFORMATION WAS THAT MADAME CLAUSTRE IS STILL ALIVE; HE

HAD NO PROOF THAT THE FRENCH HAD LANDED MILITARY EQUIPMENT
IN CHAD, BUT HE HAD "BEEN INSTRUCTED BY MY GOVERNMENT
TO SAY THIS." HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER A NEW DATE FOR
NEGOTIATIONS WITH REBEL TRIBESMEN HAD BEEN SET. HE WAS
ALSO ASKED WHETHER PART OF CHAD HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER BY LIBYA
AND HE DENIED IT.

3. THE CLAUSTRE CASE WAS THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION
BETWEEN THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE SYG LAST
EVENING. IT WAS ALSO DISCUSSED BY SYG AND ABDELKADER THIS
MORNING.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN04440
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750330-0581
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750924/aaaaavab.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHADIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' PRESS CONFERENCE ON CLAUSTRE ABDUCTION
TAGS: PFOR, FR, CD, (ABDELKADER, WADAL), (CLAUSTRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006